

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Agenda Item Summary Sheet

Committee: Diversity and Multiculturalism **Date of Meeting:** July 20, 2010

Agenda Item: Access, Opportunity and Success Programs

Proposed Policy Change Approvals Required by Policy Other Approvals Monitoring

Information

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:

The Board of Trustees approved funding for Access, Opportunity and Success initiatives at each of the colleges and universities. These initiatives must be designed to support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students. Minnesota State University Moorhead used some of the funding to support a summer bridge program, and Bemidji State University used funding to support the Advising Success Center.

Scheduled Presenter(s):

Donna Brown, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs for Diversity and Inclusion, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Jered Pigeon, Program Coordinator Multicultural Affairs, Minnesota State University Moorhead

Donald Day, Executive Director, American Indian Resource Center, Bemidji State University

Lisa Erwin, Vice President for Student Development and Enrollment, Bemidji State University

Mary Ward, Director, Advising Success Center, Bemidji State University

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:

The programs at both of the universities are well designed and have measurable outcomes. While the final outcomes are not reported in all cases, the indicators suggest that the programs will achieve their objectives. Additional assessment data will be reported at a future Board meeting.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

INFORMATION ITEM
ACCESS, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND

The Board of Trustees approved funding for Access, Opportunity and Success initiatives at each of the colleges and universities. These initiatives must be designed to support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented students. Presentations on various programs and activities are provided to the members of the Board of Trustees. Below is a description of programs at Minnesota State University Moorhead and Bemidji State University that are examples of initiative work.

Minnesota State University Moorhead

In June, 2010, Minnesota State University Moorhead held its Summer Bridge Program for underrepresented and underserved students. Eighteen students completed the program. The students lived on campus and earned six college credits. Extensive planning was needed, as this bridge program was the first of its kind at MSUM. It is important to note that this program was a retention program, not a recruitment program. The students were accepted to MSUM for the fall semester, with the exception of two who were denied admission to MSUM and instructed to attend Minnesota State Community and Technical College for one year, and then transfer to MSUM.

The students experienced life in the residence hall, ate at MSUM food services, attended traditional college classes which fulfilled core curriculum requirements, used the wellness center facilities, and studied and researched in the library. Retention of underrepresented students from freshman to sophomore year has averaged around 50 percent. The goal of the program is to increase the retention rate of the students who participate in the program to 75 percent. Improvements in the program will warrant higher retention goals in the future. The presenters will describe in detail the purpose and goals of the program and the planning process, and report on the academic performance of the students. The presenters will also share retention rates broken down by ethnicity and provide demographic information, including gender and the percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged.

Bemidji State University

The Advising Success Center team works individually with students, helping them to find their places at Bemidji State University and make the most of their experiences. They provide coordination of the new student advising and registration portion of the Academic Advising and Registration days. They also coordinate advising, including making advisor assignments, processing advisor change requests, assisting students on academic probation, assisting students who wish to reintegrate to the university, and providing information and referrals for students to ensure academic success. In addition, they coordinate peer tutoring opportunities for students, the First Year Experience program and New and Transfer Student Orientation. Specific data on the success of the center will be presented.